

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels claims 1 - 8, adds new claims 9 - 16, amends the specification and presents a new Abstract. The amendments to the specification insert a reference to parent application PCT/FR00/00581 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.78, and make the same changes made during International Preliminary Examination. New claims 9-16 are based on the amended claims presented during International Preliminary Examination, and have been further amended by eliminating multiple dependencies and drawing reference numerals, and by otherwise conforming the claims to U.S. practice. The Substitute Abstract is based on the PCT Abstract. A version with markings to show changes made is attached as an Appendix. Claims 9-16 are pending.

An Information Disclosure Statement is attached.

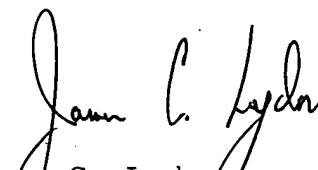
It is not believed that any fee is required for entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1258 in the amount of any such required fee.

New National Stage Application  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**PATENT**

Prompt and favorable examination of the application are earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Enclosures:

Appendix  
Abstract of the Disclosure  
Information Disclosure Statement

APPENDIX

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph inserted between the title and the first heading on page 1 is new.

The paragraph beginning at page 4, lines 4-7, has been rewritten as follows:

Page 4, please rewrite the paragraph appearing at lines 4-7 as follows:

Preferably, whatever the embodiment, one deep groove is located between two shallow grooves. In this case, the deep groove has [a free] an end where the two shallow grooves meet to create a reaction zone.

Page 7, please rewrite the paragraph appearing at lines 4-7 as follows:

In the Figures, both sides are planar but it is the upper side which is of greater interest for this invention. Thus, the upper planar surface (2) of the apparatus (1) includes cavities which create the compartments (3). The compartments are partitioned off with respect to the surfaces that are flush with the surface (2) by means of a film or partition (4). This compartment (3) thus isolated actually consists of a set of different forms. On the

sides, there are two shallow grooves (16) and in the middle there is one deep groove (6). The view in Figure 2 corresponds to a partial cross-section through A-A in Figure 1. From Figure 1, it can be seen that the two shallow grooves (16) are parallel to one another for the entire length of the deep groove (6). However, one of the ends of the deep groove (6) [is free] has an end (7) and the two shallow grooves (16) meet there to create a reaction zone (8).

Page 11, please rewrite the sentence appearing at line 11 as follows:

7. [Free end] End of the groove (6)

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-8 have been canceled.

Claims 9 - 16 are new.

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

The Substitute Abstract is new.